A SOLDIER'S LETTER. A MEMBER OF COMPANY M WRITES HOME FROM CUBA.

VIRGINIANS DO NOT LIKE CUBANS. The Spanlards Are, However, Their Friends-The Boys Are Pleasantly Located and Are Happy-Their Horrible Esperience on the Chester,

Naturally, Virginians are greatly interthe things that interest our soln Cuba, and are always glad d heat from them. The following letter ges a well-known member of one of the companies, written to his this city, will prove very inreading matter, as it gives in events which have crowded another since the regiment left lust month. The Dispatch corcovers the news, but this let thes upon many points not dwell gen by a newspaper correspondent. Fol-

"clumbia," Habana, Cuba.

would postpone my letter become settical, and then the details of our entire the beginning say that I trely well, and have been rested in the manners and etween the Cubans and offers, and they thing you offer, off their backs. On the themselves than I am brushes. Stockings and wear, and from what we their sandals, water quantity with them. ever clean, and seem to and even children 8 or e three or four blackir teeth. The Cues set far back in ler their eyes they have having received a very

AWFUL THEATRES. THOSE AWFUL THEATRES.

The theatres in Habana, Salos, and come are more vulgar and obscene in tose i have read of on the Bowery New York and the Latin Quarter of and after January list they will the first affairs that the American armment will look after. The literation of the sale of the training and photographs in the various is are such as, under no circumces would be allowed to be published the United States, and this stuff will estroyed, and the sale of it forbidden the Island of Cuba after next Sunday, in the American flag will be raised. Habana and the entire island be in ds of the United States soldiers. In this day the Cubans seem to think they can march into Habana, devant Spanish property, such as they an Spanish property, such as they are Spanish property, and think that will raise the Cuban flag over Morrothe and the various forts surrounding the surrounding the cuban flag over Morrothe and the various forts surrounding

them even one har to indicate that angs him, to show their hatred for

ON THE BROAD ATLANTIC. our trip on the high sea. About in the afternoon of December roke camp, after working very ing our stuff, and loading wagon on to put on beard all morning, started to march seven miles u, the Chester, with our knapn hour before we were allow-poard. By the time we struck of Savannah we began to rowds of people on the roads, flags and cheered us to the ame into the city on Liberty d marched down this strest ne to the De Soto Hotel, when up Bull street, and when we had be Soto and the Hussars are opposite each other, we iv get through the crowd, ed in and insisted on shaking all of us; girls whom we had us; girls whom we had gave us boxes of eat-as our company passed, and tears flowing down cousands of people folpier, walting to see the

FF FROM THE WHARF.

16th of December, promptly at the we cut loose from the wharf ed down the river in tow of two river was crowded with small do the wharves and buildings to were alive with people, everyting all the noise possible. The ous buildings were dipped women were crying, and ment in the rigging or on ving hats and yelling, our officers' deck playing nahe weather was beautiful, and to wish us a pleasant was the case except for a high I will relate presently. chich our company consider-compilmentary while we down the river was a huge side of a building on the read "Good-by, Company I not find out on what build-

we were anchored in the n the wharf so that we bar in the Savannah was brought down on but the pilot was but the pilot was a large boat out on decided to wait until the next day, when we could and cross the bar at Tybee

FOG AT SEA.

ext morning. December 17th, there very heavy fog on the river, and was a very heavy fog on the river, and the plant refused to attempt to move us, and again that night was afraid to move us and again that night was afraid to move us out in the dark. The next morning, becomber 18th, was perfectly clear, and the plant came abourd and we pulled out about 1115 A. M., and went to sea with two tugs. By this time, owing to the delays, we were short of rations, and had to wait for a tug to bring us more, which we loaded off Tybee bar, when we immediately put to sea under a full head of fram. The sea was as smooth as glass. About 4 P. M. we ran into a fog, and searly everybody on deck thought it was squall and went below. We had to run try slowly until about \$39 P. M., when the fog lifted and disclosed a beautiful night, when we again began to run under a full head of steam, and all hands turned in for the night.

The first night out there was some seasischness, but not a great deel. I did not feel a bit of it the whole trip, and really enjoyed it except for eating and sleeping.

During the fog our whistle was blown every minute, and it would have been almost impossible for any of the boats in southern waters to run us down, on account of their smallness, and, besides, we had to keep so far away from the coast that we would necessarily avoid all coast-wise vesseis.

December 19th we awoke to a beautiful sunrise on the sea and a slight breeze, and all day long we were on deck watching porpoises, flying-fish, sea-turtle, sharks, and the other interesting things one sees on a voyage in southern waters. At hight in the wash from our bow the phosphorus on the water was beautiful, and, in fact, a moonlight night at sea is the most beautiful thing you could imagine, provided the sea is quiet and you are not sick. re not sick.

A RUN INTO A MILE-POST. A RUN INTO A MILE-POST.
On Tuesday, December 20th, we awoke at reveille off the southern coast of Florida—that is, the Florida Keys, in the middle of the Gulf stream. It was a beautiful day, just rough enough to let one know he was at sea, and, of course, several men became sick, although our crew which was very ignorant and hardly knew its own duties) claimed that the sea was perfectly calm. Late Tuesday afternoon, just before dark, we broke one of the cog-wheels in one of our engines, and had to run under one engine, consequently lessening our speed a great deal. One of the sailors, on being asked what the trouble was, remarked that we had struck a mile-post and broken a biade in the propellor.

THE LIGHT ON MORRO. Shortly afterwards we sighted the light on Morro Castle, and then signalled for a pilot, but our signals were not seen, and to pilot came aboard. We then sent a post light the head. harbor until 6 A. M. Wednesday, December 21st, when we would be sent a pilot and taken into the harbor to unload. The aliot came aboard at the appointed time and we went right under Morro, the walls of which were lined with Spaniards, some of them waving and cheering as we passed. Just inside the harbor we saw the American ships, the Brooklyn and Texaslying not far from the wreck of the Maine, which is indeed a horrible sight, the halk being literally blown to pieces. We also saw several Spanish gunboats and American torpedo-boats.

march we were followed by thousands of men, women, and children, who waved Cuban and American flags, fired fire-works, and clapped their hands with joy. They would yell them-selves hourse for Cuba and America, and would throw their arms around you and hang on to you until one almost had to fight them off. Whenever we would stop to rest they would bring us water, bran-dy, and wine, and would receive no pay for it.

We arrived at our camp-ground, in We arrived at our camp-ground, in a cotato-patch, where we slept the first night under the canopy of heaven, for our tentage had not as yet arrived. It ame up the next day, and now we all asve cots, and six men sleep in a large hospital tent. It is unnecessary to say we have plenty of room and are very comfortable.

Comfortable.
On board the boat we were very crowded. Down in the hold our port holes had to be kept closed, and it was almost suffocating. I could not sleep down there at all, and had to go on deck the first three nights. I afterwards got a cot, and put it right under the hatch, and managed to sleep fairly well. It was really awful in those hammocks, and whenever you woke up in one, you fell out, and nearly broke your neck.

TOUGH FARE ABOARD.
Our breakfast consisted each morning of one slice of ham, and two hardtacks, and one-half cup of coffee, Our dinner of one-half cup of so-called soup (greasy water) and two hardtacks, and another half cup of connections of contractions of confee. When the ham gave out we had confee. When the ham gave out we had On board the boat we were very crowd-

two hardtacks, and another half cup of coffee. When the ham gave out we had nothing but beans and corn beef and coffee, and the men were nearly starved. We had one pump to get water from, and then only during certain hours, and it was almost pitiful to hear some of the men begging for a drink of water. Outside of the beautiful weather, our whole trip was miserable, and was the worst-managed affair I ever heard of. I want the Richmond people to know how we were treated on board of Uncle Sam's transport, the Chester. The boat itself was absolutely filthy.

canos!" "Viva Cuba
But one is almost
ack for there is not
an look you in the
forever begging from
set ogive them somesed with "Carramba
gesture which indithe to cut your throat,
throat of a Spaniard,
think we prefer to
them even one hardbut is all right now. I am entirely well,
but is all right now. I am entirely well,

but is all right now. I am entirely well, and hope to remain so. Love to every-body and lots for yourself and mamma. Think of and write often to your little soldier boy in "Cuba Libre." Your devoted sen.

The Nursery and Free Kindergarten. The Belle Bryan Day Nursery and Free

monthly meeting at the nursery, corner of Nineteenth and Grace streets, De-cember 31st at 4 o'clock. The usual routing was transacted as far the limited attendance, caused by the very inclement weather, permitted, and the members were unanimous in express-ing their gratification at the success that attended their efforts to give pleasure to their charges during the holidays, and their thanks to the generosity of t public that had made them practicable At noon, December 28th, the children entertainment was given, under the direc-tion of Mrs. C. P. Walford (chairman

assisted by other members of the and young ladies of the St. John's Auxil ary Circle, the King's Daughters. Th children, led by their teacher, Mrs. P. Morris, sang "Merry, Merry Chiming Bells" as they marched into the room and around the heavily-loaded Christmas-tree, afterward giving in song a 'Wel-come to Santa Clause" and a "Welcome to Friends." The present were useful and abundant and highly appreciated.

On December 30th, at 6 P. M., a supper was given the mothers by the Eva Spotts Memorial Circle-the King's Daughters The ladies who served it were Mesdame Carlton Jackson, McCarty, Trevillan Thomas, C. W. Tanner, Balley Saunders and Misses A. Branch Binford and Mary Frayser. After the company had don ample justice to the choice viands Ma Balley Saunders gave a gramophone con cert, which was much enjoyed. The Mothers' Meeting Committee and others

of the board were present. The board acknowledges, with thanks the following contributions received during December: From Miss Sue William and Mrs. Sutherland, clothing; Sunshin Band, the King's Daughters, napkins and candy; Mrs. C. P. Walford, clothing and Mrs. James W. Sinton, a pickles, preserves, pair of muslin cur-tains, shoes, and clothing; Miss Robin son's school, trunk of clothing and 5 cents; Mrs. J. B. Elam, oak table and chenille tablecover, two pounds of candy the City, 50 pounds of cornmeal; A Friend, clothing; Mr. Bromm, bread and rolls clothing; Mr. Bromm, bread and re two times; Mrs. Hopkins, two tons coal; Eva Spotts Memorial Circle, the King's Daughters, one pair of blankets Mrs. Moesta, apples, bananas, and candy; Eva G., one pair pillows, two pairs ph ow-cases, one dozen safety-pins; Blair, two baking pans; Mrs. D. C. Richardson, one pair muslin curtains; Mrs. Frank McGuire, step-ladder, clotheshorse, towel-rack, tongs, dust-brush and pan, five dishes, half dozen towels, half dozen napkins, bedspread, hair-brush, and two combs; A. Friend, three aprons; Mrs. W. J. Westwood, a rug, rattle, teawasher, two dippers, and knife-stone Mrs. Randolph Welford, wardrabe and gobiets; Miss Noiting, one tray; Little Hunter McGuire, toys and candy; Mrs Clinton Cottrell, toys and books; Mrs. C. Gray Bossieux, bell; Mrs. T. B. Cersley, Gray Bossieux, bent, Strs. T. B. Cersley, two buckets of preserves, four pounds of candy, six cans of condensed milk, ten pounds of rice, three cans of applebutter; A Friend, bundle of clothing; Channing and Isabel Daniel, books, nuts, candy, tree crangents, and love; Mrs. Pelous.

tree ornaments, and toys; Mrs. Pelouze half dozen caps, clothing, and toys;

W. H. Hazard, four dozen oranges; Mrs.

F. H. Bowman, candy and toys; Golden

Rod Club (Cleveland Randolph, Mary Newton Williams, Lella Blair, Anne Ronaldson, Nora D. Randolph, Meta Lee Randolph, Courtney Crump, and Marga-ret McGuire), shoes, clothing, and toys;

ret McGuire), shoes, clothing, and toys; Mrs. W. R. Trigg, box of cakes, buch of bananas, and bag of oranges; Miss Mary Lake table cover and pair of blankata.

A. Friend, candy, doll, toys, oranges, apples; Mary Sheppard Aylett, babyhouse, toys, and paper dolls; Mrs. Roy Mason, picture cards; Second Presbyte-Mason, picture cards; Second Fresbyte-rian Sunday school, toys and fruits; Mesdames Ramon Garcin, George A. Lyon, Binford, Rahm, McCumber, De Saussure, Misses Ruby and Pearl Bode-ker, little Virginia Campbell, Parke Tay-lor, S. W. Fleishman, Messrs, Julius Meyer's Sons and Miller & Rhoads, toys. Mrs. Smith, fruit; Mrs. Haughton, cake Shirley Carter, drawing-books; Mr. James r. Vaughan, one and a half pounds coffee ne bag flour, one peck sweet-potatoes through Mrs. James W. Sinton, desk. chair, and screen; Mrs. Burfoot, money Mrs. Ellen Sinton, 50 cents; East Rich-mond Sunday school, \$1.60; Mrs. S. G. Wallace \$1; Mrs. Frederick Travers, ...; Mr. Noland, 50 cents; Mrs. James Caskie, \$1 Miss Maria Blair, \$5; Trinity Methodis Sunday school, \$1.50.

War Department's Methods.

(Baltimore American.) The War Department is not allowing any grass to grow under its feet in its ontroversy with General Miles con-erning the beef furnished to the arm, n Porto Rico. It has sent out for publication a number of questions and answers, purporting to have been made to, and received from, packers in Chi-cago. It first appoints a court to in-vestigate the charges—a court entirely of its own selection—and then prepares and publishes the testimony which is to be given before this court. It is singular way of conducting an investi-sation—in fact, it would be startling and not precisely the same tamp oc-surred in the efforts of the department t is, however, distinctly discreditable and is a serious reflection on the of the government. As a means of altering public opinion it is mult. It will be more apt to strengthen the unpleasand mpression concerning the doings of the

War Department.

When it is necessary to go outside of the usual and natural channels to busy up a reputation, the suspicion will involved by occur that those channels will not accomplish the necessary busying. But the production of these interviews is a lame way of refuting specific tharges. The allegation is not that thicago's packers are in the habit of outting up bad or unwholesome beef. out that the bulk of the seel sent to Porto Rico as food for the army was not at for that purpose, and that a large quantity of it was embalmed, and had an odor not unlike that of a human corpse. This is not the testimony of Gencorpse. This is not the testimony of General Miles only, but of a large majority of the officers who served under him, and of officers of high standing who did not go to Porto Rico. An advocate of the War Department claims that General Miles, by als testimony, has not only injured the nas done irretrievable damage to Ameri

This is a narrow and silly view of the question. Other countries besides the United States have had stupid or blundering departments, and to cleanse them and turn the responsible parties out does not appear to have lowered those governments one whit in the estimation of the world. And it is a thoroughly novel proposition that improper trade methods should not be exposed for fear of injuring American commerce. What has the Agricultural Department been doing for the last ten years but guard-ing the export trade of this country against evil and corrupt practices which njure it abroad? This is unquestionably the feeblest attempt at defence that the department has yet made. The soldiers who were condemned to eat this horrible stuff or go without meat have not been heard from, and do not seem to have been taken into account by the War De-partment. Their officers have spoken, to the dismay of the department, and the chorus of condemnation will not be lessen-ed when Congress calls upon the men to testify against the blundering and general inefficiency of the Secretary.

FIVE HOURS' PIANO PRACTICE.

The Famous Leschetizky Says That Should be Maximum Task of Pupil. Home Journal.)

As to the number of hours that should be spent in daily practice, Leschetizky, the famous Vienna teacher, and the instructor of Paderewski, says it depends very much upon the pupil's power of concentrating his mind upon what his finger are doing-five hours he would call a maximum, and less is better. "Don't practice so many hours," he is always saying. but use your brain more while you are practicing. Learn to listen to what you are playing—to listen! How few there are who know how to listen!" And then, to illustrate his meaning, he will strike two notes in succession, say G and D, and show what changes and shadings of meaning may be effected by varying the time and tone quality. A little strengthen-ing here, a holding back there, the quickening of a pulse, the change of an accent-these make all the difference between soul and clay, between art and artifice, but it takes a listening brain to feel them. Per haps-and, indeed, it is so regarded-this habit is one of the most precious of the

many really precious things that Les-chetizky develops in his pupils.

And then there is the habit he is always counselling of practiceing away from the piano; not practicing with the hands, but with the mind, by thinking out a piece, note by note, passage by passage, until a distinct and original idea of it has been obtained. This work may be done, he says, at almost any time, once the habit is formed, and may be done with or without notes.

An Example Worth Following. (Atlanta Constitution.)

Rev. T. N. Morrison, of the Church of the Epiphany, in Chicago, has set the clergy of the United States an example well worth following, and has laid down precepts which, if followed, would purge the religions of the country of many of

their unconsecrated exponents.

Dr. Morrison was lately appointed to the Protestant Episcopal See of Iowa, at the Protestant Episcopal See of Iowa, at Cedar Rapids. To accept this charge, and leave his present work, would be to go into a territory new and untried and to forsake a community and congenial Criends, to whom many years of carnest and successful work had endeared him. Yet he saw in this new opening a chance for the spread of the Gospel, and a broader field for a man of his alents and ability. However unpleasant, per-sonally, the change might be, and no matter what a wrench it cost him to break old ties, cemented in years of firm Sixth United States Artillery. Fort Monfriendship, he did not hesitate between duty and preference, but sacrificed his inclinations and accepted the ap-

In a farewell address to his congrega-In a farewell address to his congregation he told his people what an effort it cost him to relinquish the pastorate of the flock which he had so tenderly guarded for so long a time, but he laid down obedience as the basis of true and spiritual religion, and said his life of submission to his superiors in the Church had prepared him for his crucial control of the submission to his superiors in the Church had prepared him for his crucial governation. So intense was his emotion to the superiors of the superiors in the Roancke Va., assigner to Missouri Rail separation. So intense was his emotion in leaving his people that his voice way-ered, and he nearly collapsed toward the end of his farewell sermon.

Only a minister who has spent years in one congenial religious community can appreciate the true value of Dr. Morrison's sacrifice. For such he de-serves unlimited commendation, and he furnishes an example to the younger and more inconsistent element of the various churches which they would do well to closely emulate.

China Makes More Difficulties. PEKIN, January 4.—An imperial edict has been issued, appointing all Viceroys and Governors of provinces members exofficio of the Tsung-Li-Yamen This arrangement will undoubtedly make dealings with the Chinese Government more difficult.

OLD PAPERS FOR SALE 15c. PER HUNDREP at the

DISPATCH OFFICE

THE WRIGHT LETTER.

CONFEDERATE INQUIRY. PAESIDENT'S TRP SUGGESTED IT.

NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE ABOUT

mation About Confederate Cemeteries and Proceeded to Post It-

self-Washington Personal Notes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 4 .-(Special.)-In reply to an inquiry from me as to what was the object of his recent letter to the State authorities in relation to Confederate cemeteries, General Marcus J. Wright, of the War Records Office, said he was not in a position to say. The letter, he said, was written by direction of Colonel Ainsworth, of the regular army, who is in charge of the war records, and he referred me to that officer for a reply. When I called by appointment to-day, Colonel Ainsworth sald there was no special significance in the matter of obtaining information regarding the Confederate cemeteries. The purpose of the War Records Office was to have at hand, whenever it should be wanted, full information on all subjects regarding the war. Somehow or other the Confederate cemeteries had been instance, the President's trip through the South, revealed the fact that the Records Office had absolutely no information as to the location or names of the cemeteries, or the number of soldiers interred in each, much less the condition

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH SUGGESTEL

The chief object of General Wright's recent letter was to obtain accurate in-formation concerning the cemeteries, so that when it is needed no matter by that when it is needed no matter by whom, the Records Office will be in a position to furnish it. He said: "We have full information about the national cemeteries, but absolutely none about the Confederate cemeteries. The information now asked for should have been The informacured long ago. I don't see how it has been overlooked, and I am glad come thing occurred which showed how neces sary it is to have complete statements and statistics regarding the Confederate cemeteries and the dead interred in them. formation is received and compiled in a general statement, that the President will make use of it in a special message to Congress, with a view to securing the necessary legislation to carry out the views he expressed at Aslanta.

REASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS. The reassembling of Congress after the holiday recess was peculiarly quiet and The Senate, after receiving the Paris treaty of peace, referring it to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and paying a tribute to the late Senator Morrill. adjourned in respect to the memory of that statesman, after a fifteen-minutes' session. The same body will probably session. The same body will probably meet to-morrow and adjourn until the fol-lowing Monday, when the business of the will begin in earnest. The House took up the Alaska bill, and

very soon both floor and galleries were almost deserted. Senator Martin was present in his seat in the chamber during the brief session to-day. Senator Daniel is absent in Cuba.

DANIEL'S VISIT TO HABANA. There is a good deal of speculation as the object of Senator Daniel's visit to of the government by the Spaniards to the Americans. Some thought it was to fa-miliarize himself with the conditions here, and particularly to ascertain the ment; others said it was to post him-self thoroughly before voting on the treaty of peace, and still others had al-together different explanations of the object of the Senator's trip. nearly all at sea. Senator lect of the Senator's trip. They were nearly all at sea. Senator Daniel went down during the holidays on a visit to his son, Lieurenant John W. Daniel, Jr., of the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army. He is looked for at leave in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army. He is looked for at leave in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army. He is looked for at leave in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army. He is looked for at leave in the regular army who is now on duty in the regular army, who is now on duty in the regular army. He is looked for at leave in the regular army who is now on duty in the regular army who is now on duty in the regular army. The regular army was to be our fate." Habana. He is looked for at home in a

few days. Representatives Lamb, Hay, Rixey, and Swanson were present in the House to-day. Messrs, Jones and Otey had not arrived.

PERSONAL

General L. L. Lomax was in the office of General Marcus J. Wright, who has charge of the Confederate War Records, when I called this morning, and in the ederate friends.

Mrs. General Fitzhugh Lee and her daughters, Misses Ellen and Nannie, are in the city, stopping at the Cairo. They expect to leave for New York very soon and sail thence to join the General, in

Colonel Tom Carter, of Cartersville, Va., was in the city to-day, visiting friends. He left for home by an evening train. Messrs. Skinner and Stroud (Popullsts). Linney (Republican), and Kitchin (Democrat), of North Carolina, were in their eats to-day.

J. R. Brown, of Martinsville, Va.; C. C. Collins, of Lynchburg; W. L. Hensen and wife, of Haymarket, Va.; Misses Preston and Huger, of Roanoke, Va., are at the

E. Lowgrow and wife, Norfolk, Va.; B. F. W. Carter, Richmond, Va.; J. M. Ayres, Milton, N. C.; Spencer B. Adams, Yancyville, N. C.—National, C. L. Pearson, George L. Crossman, Mrs. C. C. Buford, Asheville, N. C.—St.

James.

L. N. Burgess, Charlottesville, Va.: J. N. Brennan, New Market, Va.; T. N. Carithers, C. M. Payner and sister, Round ill, Va.; Du Bintz English, Mt. Olive, C.; G. J. Meade and child, Calverton, N. C.; G. J. Meade and child, Carv. Va.; E. S. Ferguson, Winchester, Howard House.

ARMY ORDERS. Private James D. Bullock, Company K., First North Carolina Volunteer Infantry, now at Raleigh, N. C., is discharged from the service of the United States.

Private Henry Ellis, Hospital Corps, Josiah Simpson Hospital, Fort Monroe, Va., is discharged.

roe, Va., is discharged from the service, These soldiers are entitled to travel pay. PATENTS.

Patents were issued to-day as follows: Clifford Bargamin, Newport News, Va., automatic cut-off for gas or vapor bur-ners; Georgias J. N. Carpenter, Newport facture: Leonard J. Merriman, Ivanhoe, N. C., plant-protector: John A. Pilcher, Roanoke Va., assignor to Missouri Rail way Equipment Company, St. Louis, Mo., draft rigging: Alexander C. Wood, Advanced vance, N. C., machine for sawing fellies.

Value of Editorial Opinion.

(New Orleans Pleayune.) Mr. Truman A. De Wesse, a practi-

cal journalist, at present of the editorial staff of the Chicago Times-Herald, is the withor of the article in the Forum for exampler on "Journalism: Its Rewards and Its Opportunities." This article insists and Its Opportunities." This article insists not so much upon the importance of journalism as upon the value of personal article of an influence in the discharge of its duties. "Irresponsible newspaper writing." says Mr. De Wesse, "means decadence of power and the gradual decline of a profession that should be paramount in its range of influence over all human endeavor." This claim of universal inspiration and direction for the newspapers will probably strike the majority of the natrons of the press as somewhat excessive. It is evidently made by a writer who is most of all somewhat excessive. It is evidently windrowed—that is, cut down and covered a without just compensation being almade by a writer who is most of all up in the fields—to save it from spoiling.

situation in politics, in business, and in every other sphere of human activity with which they are concerned, and not to ascertain the opinions of anonymous writers whose judgment may be no better than their own. On the other hand, while very few care to read every editorial even in their favorite papers, there are not many who will deliberately skip an article on a subject in which they are deeply interested. And for this there are several reasons. In the first place, a man will usually listen to a carefully stated opinion, supported by fact and argument, in regard to any question which concerns his own welfare, or which on any account either elicits his sympathy

or excites his opposition. He is especially willing to hear those whose interest in the matter is identical with his own, or who are generally of his way of think-ing. Then there is the just reflection that the editorial writer is probably in possession of the main facts, and has thought the whole thing over with at least an average degree of intelligence. Finally, great weight is attached to the fact that the newspaper is to some extent an organ of public opinion. The be a division of public opinion, newspaper will be in any case the most throughly representative exponent of its own side. But the importance of editorials is, perhaps, principally due to the fact that they are usually read by the most intelligent class.

Marck dies. Everybody knows something about him, but hardly any one is able to state the decisive achievements of his life exactly in their due order, or, so to speak, in correct per-spective. Your newspaper not only repairs the defects of your memory in supplying you with a perfectly reliable sketch of his career, but it adds an analysis of his character and an esti mate of the consequence of his work as a whole. This matter is furnished by professional journalists who he known for years that they might called upon at any hour to do it, and who, therefore, meet the sudden event with elaborate preparation. The sagacious journalist sees coming events in the shadows which they cast before them, and is not often caught napping New departures in politics are the result of tendencies that have long been students of the public mind. The journalist keeps his eye of the drift of events, and when the the drift of events, and when the time comes, he is ready with the law rgument. Take, for instance, that uestion of territorial expansion with argument. American statesmanship low to deal.

The prudent journalist soon as there was the slightest reason to suspect that the settlement of the Spanish war might involve considerations viterior to the immediate casus belli. His preparation in this instance involved a review both of interna-tional and of constitutional law, and a study of the internal condition of the great Powers of Europe, to ascertain the causes of their common colonizing It is this habit of prepara tion, more than anything else, perhaps which gives to the editorial utterance its special value. Other men look ahead ly interested in every business, and, to quote a famous line from an old Roman poet, he counts nothing that is human foreign to himself. Editorial writing then, is not merely "the criticism of the moment at the moment," but is rather

the criticism of the anticipated moment. Intelligent men understand the of this editorial preparation, and this is one reason why editorials are read by the best class of newspaper readers, But Mr. De Wesse thinks the editorial is most influential when it is re-enforced by the power of the writer's own personality. "should be signed by the writer. in some particular depart ment of knowledge. This means in dividualization and specialization, both

indispensable elements in any line of successful professional endeavor." For obvious reasons, however, the applica-tion of this rule is, for the most part

impossible in general journalism.

The Bible in Education.

(Hartford (Ct.) Courant.) Not long ago an instructor of youth tried an experiment. He wanted to find out how much (or how little) the average American college student of these days knows about the Bible. To ninety-six knows about the Bible. To ninety-six such students he gave nine simple ques-tions, to be answered off-hand and in writing. He explained to them his ob-ject, and promised not to show their an-swers to anybody. This was the question

paper:
1. What is the Pentateuch?
2. What is the higher criticism of Scriptures?

3. Does the book of Jude belong to the New Testament or to the Old?

4. Name one of the patriarchs of the Old Testament.

5. Name one of the Judges of the Old Testament.

5. Name one of the judges of the the Testament.
6. Name three of the kings of Israel.
7. Name three prophets.
8. Give one of the beatlindes.
9. Quote a verse from the letter to the Bomans.
In a letter to the Christian Advocate he reports the result of the experiment. Eight of the aninety-six students answered all the questions correctly; thirteen aninety of them, eleven answered

Eight of the ninety-six students answered all the questions correctly; thirteen answered eight of them, eleven unswered seven, five answered four, eleven answered three, thirteen answered two, eleven answered one, and three "flunked" completely. "Most of these persons, I have no doubt, were brought up in Christian homes." remarked the experimenter, "and had enjoyed such instruction as the average Sunday school and pulpit of our day afford."

The Hon. Mr. Sneed Scorns to Adopt a Privilege. (Savannah News.)

The rule that no person shall smoke in a street-car is enforced strictly by the conductors on all Memphis lines, but an exception is made in the case of one passenger-namely, the Hon. John L. Sneed-says the Memphis Scimitar. It is not recorded that the able chancellor ever took advantage of the exceptional privilege accorded him, but it is certain that he has been invited to go in off the plat-form and finish his clear comfortably on a cushioned seat. "No, I'm afraid the ladies would ob-ject." was his response to such an invi-

The ladies all make concessions

"The ladles all make concessions to you." was the reply of the conductor.
"I don't know about that," said the Judge. "You heard what the old lady said about smoking in her presence?"

The conductor had to confess that though he had heard a good many stories on the rear platform, he had never heard this particular one.
"Well. I'll tell you," said the chancellor, "She was a charming old lady of the old schoo', and one day she was asked if she objected to a gentleman smoking in her presence. I don't really know,' was her reply. I have never had any experience in that line. No gentleman has ever smoked in my presence."

The Sugar Crop of 1898.

(New Orleans Picayune.)

The sugar season is now rapidly drawing to a close. While a number of fac-tories are still working, some have al-ready ended the campaign, while others will do so in a very few days. Some estates are still backward in working u their crops, but it will not be many day now before the season will be practically over. Owing to the cold weather of the much of the cane was

Impressed with the importance of the matter known as editorial.

It is the proper business of newspapers to publish the news and to comment upon it. Probably the greater number of newspaper readers never think of reading all the editorials in their daily paper, or of looking to it for light and guidance in all the interests of their lives. Most men will say that they read newspapers to learn what is going on, to get at the actual facts of the yield of sugar per ton of cane passed weather,
The results of the season's work among the sugar-factories have been disappointing. The weather has been unfavorable for taking off the crop, being too warm during September and too cold during the balance of the fall and early winter. The yield of sugar per ton of came passed through the mills has probably failen off about 15 per cent. compared with last year. Some of this shrinkage will be made good by the larger tonnage grown than was the case in 1897; but the crop, as a whole, will probably be somewhat smaller than last year.

This is a great disappointment to the sugar trade. At the time the season opened a much larger crop than last year was expected, as the acreage was larger and the tonnage was also heavy. It was known that the cane was somewhat green and backward; but it was believed that the first cold weather would remove this diffi-

first cold weather would remove this diffi-culty. Cold weather at first was slow in arriving, but when it came it was so severe that it failed to have the usual ripening effect, and forced the planters to resort to windrowing.

Fo tunately for the sugar producers, a

good market has been experienced for sugar. Frices have ruled firm and were well maintained, and this strength of values has in a large measure, compen-sated for the smaller yield than had been looked for. The strength of the market has been as pronounced and well sustain ed, as the season has been untoward in other respects. Not in ten years has a more uni-avorable grinding period been experienced; while, on the other hand, a steadier market has been rarely experi-

In the Forbidden Land.

(Harper's mazer.)
Trial, imprisonment, and torture, in Landor's complete account, have so large an element of the grotesque that the horror of it all does not become intolerable. Even to the chief sufferer, when his death seemed near and inevitable, the ludicrous features in the situation were apparent.
While he was stretched on the rack the
Pombo, Governor of the district, with soldiers and Lamas, brought Landor's cases of scientific instruments (which had not gone down in the river), and opening the boxes in the sufferer's presence, displayed an amusing mixture of curiosity and caution over everything they touched. dor was obliged to explain the use of each instrument in turn, until finally they reached the bottom of a water-tight case reached the bottom of a water sgut and the Pombo drew out with much sus-picion a curious flattened object. "What is that?" he inquired, lifting the article up in the air; and Landor recognized his bath-sponge, dry and flattened, which Chanden Sing had stored away at the bottom of the case, plling upon it heavy cases of photographic plates. "The sponge, a very large one, was now reduced to the thickness of less than an inch, owing to the weight that had for weeks lain upon it. The Tibetans were greatly puzzled at this new discovery. They said the object resembled tinder, and it was touched with much caution, for some of the Lamas said it might explode. When their curiosity was appeased they threw it away." It fell near Landor in a small pool of water, and, a golden opportunity to frighten his jaliers thus presenting itself, the quick-witted sponge, a very large one, was now reduced to the thickness of less than an inch, owing to the weight that had for thus presenting itself, the quick-witted explorer (who had been undergoing such tortures that he "had now the peculiar "Excessive fines shall not be imposed, or sensation of possessing a living head on a dead body") addressed the sponge in diers," he writes, "was naturally drawn to this unusual behavior on my part, and they could not conceal their terror when, as I spoke louder and louder to the sponge, it gradually swelled to its normal size with the moisture it The Tibetans, who at believe their eyes at this incomprehensible occurrence, became panic-stricken at what they believed be an exhibition of my occult powers, that there was a general stampede in

every direction." Again, when it was noticed that the prisoner had webbed fingers, the Pombo ncluded that he might spare himself further efforts, for the Tibetans believe no harm can be done to a man whose hands have that peculiarity. As Landor says: "Aside from the question whether there was much charm or not in my life

THE DELINQUENT-TAX LAW.

Discussed at Length from a Constitutional Standpoint. To the Editor of the Dispatch:

If it were asked, "What single act (not law) has brought most anxiety and misery to the poor people of Eastern Virginia since the days of the Revolution?" it would be at once answered, "The land-grabbers' act"-an act levelled by the classes against the masses; an act not justified by the laws of God, and finding no justification or sanction in the two great fundamental charters known as the "Bulwarks of American Liberties," which govern the United States and the State of Virginia, for the grabbers' act

is clearly without sanction of law.

To show that this is so, let us turn that great article of civil liberty, Constitution of the United States. We read, first, Article L, section 10 (1) "That no ex post facto law shall be passed, and who can doubt that the "L. G." act is ex post facto, as it seeks to punish the delinquent owner for the offence of delinquency long years after the delin-quency has occurred, and consequently is

by law inoperative and void."
Article IV., section 2 (i) says "the citizens of each State shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens of the several States," Now, as there no States in the Union which have aws allowing the rich man to take the poor man's home unless the latter pays his rich oppressor \$5 for refraining from robtich oppressor \$5 for retraining from rob-bing him, the poor man has a right to immunity in Virginia. I use the terms "rich man" and "poor man" for the rea-son that the taxes are owing almost wholly by poor men and widows and orthogs and it is the moneyed powers orphans, and it is the moneyed powers who have been authorized to oppress who have been authorized to oppress
them. Poor men can't have any lot or
part in it-they have no money with
which to avail themselves of the advantage. I travel in a number of other
States, and know of none that seeks to
confiscate the land of its poor citizens
for one-250th part of its value (as ascertained by its own officers) for one year's for one-250th part of its value (as ascer-tained by its own officers) for one year's taxes or compel him to pay his rich cp-pressor \$5 to let up on him. See, aso, Article VI., section 2: "The provisions of the Constitution are law in every State, the law of any State to the con-

State, the law of any State to the con-itary notwithstanding."

The amendment to the United States Constitution (page 27 of Code of Virginia). Article IV., alludes to "The right of the people to be secure in their houses against unreasonable seizures." Now, will any one say that the seizure of a poor man's house for the 25th part of its value is not an unreasonable seizure or poor man's house for the 20th part of its value is not an unreasonable seizure or levy, and could poor men be secure in their homes if they were not made so by

law?
Article V. of the Amendments to the United States Constitution says: "No person shall be deprived of property without due process of law; nor shall without due process of law, nor shall private property be taken for public uses, without just compensation." (See also Censtitution of Virginia, section 4.) It cannot be denied that taxes are levied It cannot be denied that taxes are levied and collected for public uses. There are generally but two uses—public and private—and no one will assert that they are collected for private use in the face of the fact that several years ago one of the State officers "appropriated" about allo,000 of the tax funds to his private use and he was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary. He got off years to the penitentiary. He got off very ight, it is true, but then he was a citizen of Richmond and "a mighty good eller." It is clear that the tax is levied ly true that land cannot be taken to pay

part of its real value is just compen-sation? Would the Governor or the State and members of the Supreme Coart give up their holdings for such compensation! I trow not. The State is estopped from aking land after this fashion, because the State, by its own officers and acts, had ascertained its value to be 250 times more than their officer took it at private sale.

The claim set forth by the State that she acquired ownership by "due process of law" is all fudge, bosh, and pretence. The State, it seems, passes an act proceeding that the lands should be sold at 'public auction' to the "highest bloder,"
This act could never be carried out and
was not, though it was sought to be done, was not, though it was sought to be done, and proved (as is wen known) to be a miserable failure. You could not have a public auction without the presence of the public and number of bids. The general sentiment of the good people of Virginia (whom, may a kind Heaven torever protect and bless), was against forced sales and the oppression of their fellow-citizens who were provided and the oppression of their fellowcitizens who were poor and hard run to live, and showed their sympathy by staying away and refusing to bid a such sales, and, consequently, "pub ic auctions," such as the law called for, could not be had, and in crusequence nearly all sales were private; there were really no auctions; there were no bidders, and the officers merely took the property in, in the name of the State, at the 40 cents on the \$100 of real value. Does any one believe that any court would sanction any such single sale and give ownership when there were no bidders, and in which the only offer was \$1 for a property worth \$1,000. The offer would certainly be turned down as wholly inadequate and as the State is strong and the poor citizen weak, how much more leinency should be shown to the citizen. This is the regular due process of law. The officers morely recorded the fact of the offering at sele to secure the "lien" of the State for the tax; they could do no more. To claim that they did more (by the State) would be to claim the right to confiscate the

lands of its citizens at will.

When one reads carefully through that "weary world of change"—the 28th chap-"weary world of change"—the 28th chap-ter of the Code—with all its multitudinous amendments in reference to delinquent lands, and goes back to section 45t, he sees in a number or places the right of "lien" for the taxes, but no mention and scarce a hint of ownership by the State; for they could not have ownership without buy-ing and paying a fair compensation or price, and that is something that no one ever heard of their doing; for by no manner of fair means can a lien for a trifling sum be made to stand for the

ownership of the whole.

So it seems that the claim of "due pro cess of law" is a miserable pretence, having never been carried out, and the State has no ownership whatever, and, having none, can legally give none. This she tacitly acknowledges, as she only offers to give special warranty, which is really no warranty at all, as she has no ownership except as to a mere title. The

"Excessive fines shall not be imposed, or cruel or unusual punishments inflicted." There can be no doubt that to deprive a a dead body" addressed the sponge in Religible, pretending to utter incantations. English, pretending to utter incantations. "The attention of the Lamas and soldiers," he writes, "was naturally drawn to this unusual behavior on my armore cruel punishment than was passed upon the poor Cubans by their hated spart, and they could not conceal their lerror when, as I spoke louder and spanish oppressors. The Spaniard merely the programment of the control of their whole property for the offence of failing to pay a year's taxes is an excessive fine, and a woman, or child of their whole property for the offence of failing to pay a year's taxes is an excessive fine, and a woman, or child of their whole property for the offence of failing to pay a year's taxes is an excessive fine, and a woman, or child of their whole property for the offence of failing to pay a year's taxes is an excessive fine, and they could not conceal their leaves and the property for the offence of failing to pay a year's taxes is an excessive fine, and they could not conceal their leaves and the removed the "reconcentrades" temporari ly from their homes, and for that act

Cuba and replaced the people in their homes and rights. Section 9 (Amend, U. S. Con.) says: "The enumeration of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." These rights of the people have been retained by the peo-ple of Eastern Virginia for more than 190

years, and cannot be legally wrested from them. They are vested rights; the people who live on the land are freemen, and not tenants at will of syndicates or we lithy grabbers. Section 8 (Bill of Rights of Va.) says:

"Citizens cannot be taxed or deprived of their property for public uses without their own consent or that of their representatives so elected, or bound by any law to which they have not assented." To change this requires a constitutional amendment. A mere act of the Legisla-ture will not do, and there has been no constitutional convention called and no such act submitted to the people. This same "Bill of Rights" says that men have certain inherent rights, with the means of acquiring property, and that in controversies respecting property the trial by jury is preferred, &c. By the land-

by Jury is preferred, &c. By the and-grabbers' act the city or county Judge is declared dictator—a one-man-power in a great, free, and equal country. Section 14, of the Virginia State Consti-tution, in defining the powers of the Legislature, prohibits it from passing any law whereby private property ca pensation, and section 21, Article L, says the rights and privileges of citizens shall not be violated on any pretence whatever. Both the United States and State consti-tutions declare that the citizen has inhe-rent rights, &c., &c., of which he cannot

Section 14, Article V., Constitution of Virginia, says: "The General Assembly shall not pass any ex post facto law or any law whereby private property shall be taken for public uses without just compensation."

Now, the principal officers of the State are sworn to maintain these great Ameri can magna charters to the best of their ability; so help them God. No one has heard of any latter-day revelation in which the Almighty has refused His help to man; but, on the contrary, the poor have heard, seen, and felt that "Sheol has given a half-holiday and turned his imps loese" to despoil the poor people of Eastern Virginia of their hard-earned

savings. Article X., section 1. State Constitution, says: "Taxation shall be equal and uni-form, and shall be ad valorem." If the tax is not ad valorem (according to value), it is not lawful. Now it is a fact beyond controversy that the Legislature, by an ex parte act of its own, ascertained the value of lands in the cities and towns in Eastern Virginia by the city assessments which were made for the cities. in Eastern Virginia by the city assess-ments, which were made for the cities' special uses, and which have been proven in many cases, when put to the test, to be from three to seven times their actual value. Hence, the law can have no bind-ing force on the poor tollers of those Eastern cities and towns, who get their living by the sweat of their bonest brows, while the wealthy cattle baron is paying next to nothing on his princely estate.
The act is contrary to common honesty. virtue, public policy, and polity. C. S. MAURICE.

Sentiment of Confederates.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.) It was a North Carolina ex-Confederate who offered this resolution, which was adopted by the Confederate Veteran Camp

of New York:

"Resolved, That the Confederate Veteran Camp of New York condemns in unmeasured terms the efforts of Senator Butler, of North Carolina (who is not a Confederate veteran), to debauch the Confederate veterani, manhood of the South, by seeking to ob-tain pensions for ex-Confederate soldiers from the United States, and that any similar effort by any southern member of Congress will be abhorrent to the camp and meet with unqualified condemnation."

That is the sentiment of ex-Confederates everywhere. But the matter is not really worth notice by formal resolutions. Nobody is applying for pensions to excentederates and nobody is offering them. The fact that Buzzy Butler has tried to be the matter into Congress does not be the congress does not be th Congress will be abhorrent to the camp lug the matter into Congress does not in the least qualify this sweeping assertion.

Orders for printing sent to the Dispatch Company will be given prompt tention, and the style of work and pri-